



## Data:

We now have **260** high schools and ATCs registered for Imagine Academy in Kentucky!

Make sure you are also a testing site with Certiport so your students can certify!

## Stay Connected:

[KYIA webpage](#)

[Microsoft IA Blog](#)

[Microsoft EduCast Webinar Series](#)

[KY's Certiport webpage](#)

Follow KY IA on Twitter  
[@KYITAcademy](#)

Laura Raganas, KY IA Program Manager  
[laura.raganas@education.ky.gov](mailto:laura.raganas@education.ky.gov)

Megan Hochstatter, Microsoft Deployment Manager  
[v-mehoch@microsoft.com](mailto:v-mehoch@microsoft.com)

Ann Schreck, Certiport Deployment Manager  
[ann.schreck@pearson.com](mailto:ann.schreck@pearson.com)



## Certificates and Transcripts in Certiport and Your Seniors

Graduation will be here before we know it and you need to make plans for assisting your seniors in taking their certifications and transcripts with them. If your students are using their Office 365 school email address to access their certificates and transcripts while a student, they will need to update their profile information upon graduation with a personal email address so they can continue doing so.

## More Training Opportunities Scheduled!

Are you new to Imagine Academy or just trying to figure out how to navigate the site to access the curriculum and resources made available to you at no charge? Register for one of these training events:

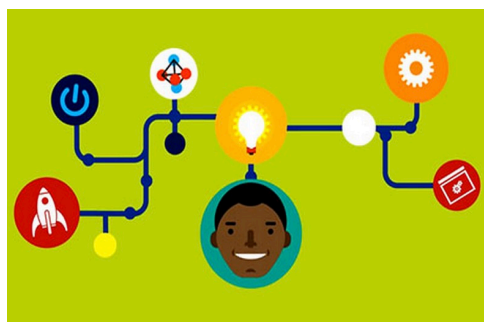
[March 2, 4-6 p.m., Atherton High School, Louisville](#)

or

[March 23, 4-6 p.m., Allen Central High, Eastern](#)

or

[March 31, 4-6 p.m., Carroll Co. ATC, Carrollton](#)



## What's New with Imagine Academy?

Check out the new "Getting Started" resources including "Quick Start" guides for navigating through the benefits, PowerPoint presentations to help you promote the program, social media tools, and exam resource mapping: <http://1drv.ms/1TowjVM>

View new Imagine Academy "Get Started Videos:" <http://aka.ms/Aue3bf>

Browse through the member site under the marketing tab for new posters and flyers to brighten up your classroom and school hallways <https://member.imagineacademy.microsoft.com/>

Watch for a one-time marketing kit with new printed posters which will be mailed later this month. The package will be addressed to your Program Administrator.



## Certiport's Mandatory Console 8 update

Certiport recently released a mandatory update to our delivery engine, Console, version 8.5 This is a very important update that will help your tests be delivered more efficiently and securely.

Some centers, however, MAY experience technical difficulties when updating testing machines.

***Please send this notification to your technical support team to ensure they are familiar with the following requirements for this latest mandatory update:***

1. All test machines MUST comply with our technical requirements found here:  
<http://www.certiport.com/portal/desktopdefault.aspx?page=common/pagelibrary/techRequirements.htm>
2. All test machines must have all our required domain names **whitelisted**. These are:
  - a. [www.certiport.com](http://www.certiport.com)
  - b. [downloads.certiport.com](http://downloads.certiport.com)
  - c. [certprep.certiport.com](http://certprep.certiport.com)
  - d. [myspeed.certiport.com](http://myspeed.certiport.com)
  - e. [verify.certiport.com](http://verify.certiport.com)
3. If you experience problems due to
  - a. possible proxy server settings and limitations
  - b. firewall settings and limitations
  - c. virus protection settings

You may need to **whitelist** Certiport specific IP addresses. These can be found at:

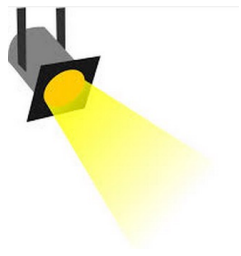
<http://www.certiport.com/Portal/desktopdefault.aspx?tabid=755&roleid=23#C850>

You will need to log into your Certiport account to access.

This should resolve your potential issues. We are excited about this new update to Console 8 and look forward to helping you deliver all Certiport exams quickly and easily.

Thank you for your support!

*Certiport Operations*



# Spotlight:



## Pulaski County High School

Story by Mike Crowhurst, Pulaski County High teacher

This year has been our first experience with the Microsoft program. I think we have been pretty successful. The curriculum is good and the educator development has helped me “remember” some things I had forgotten. And like all things, teachers have to learn, too. I have figured out there are some thing I have to teach and reteach and sometimes re-re-teach to help kids learn.

The first trimester of our school year, I used the MSIA video-based materials a lot. I found those were a great introduction, but just didn’t have enough depth. The PowerPoint-based materials had a great deal of information, but they didn’t seem to connect with my objectives. What I think helped me most as a teacher was to start with the tested objectives (what Microsoft says they are testing) and build the instruction around those objectives. We try to complete the basic instruction in about six weeks and then begin using the GMetrix practice tests.

To date, the PCHS program’s “Wall of Fame” has 91 student certificates. We have actually filled the wall and started an “annex.” Currently, we allow any student who earns a certificate in any product to join the wall.

We start our Digital Literacy class with Excel, so we have more of those certifications than other Office products. Of all the students I have tested, most of them eventually pass. Some have to take the test twice and I tell them that is OK. One of the great aspects of computers and computer programming is that failure is not permanent. You may have to try more than once, but if you are willing to put in the effort, you can do it. The nice thing about the program we have in Kentucky and the sponsorship of the Kentucky legislature is that we have tests provided to us and the kids can have re-takes.

The PCHS program uses the MSIA curriculum to teach the three office products. “In my opinion, the Excel and PowerPoint materials are great. The Word materials need to be revised, but by using the Microsoft Office Study Guide book, we have been OK with preparing for that test. This year, we started kids with Excel. We found that if they could pass the Excel test, the others were pretty easy to follow. Excel also requires some level of math.”

If you are just starting with the MSIA or aren’t getting kids through the tests, I would go back to the objectives. One thing I do like about both the GMetrix and the Certiport tests is that we get a list of objectives that a student misses when they complete a test. If I look at that with an individual student, I can help them go back and re-cover material. I can also look at my class and see what they are missing on the whole and use that information to inform my instruction.

One thing that is also fun to see is what these kids are doing outside of my class and what they are planning for the future. I have had members of our state championship football team, track athletes, folks from the band and the academic team earn certification. I have also sent “Another PCHS Certification” e-mail blasts around the state. We take a picture in front of the Wall of Fame and celebrate their success. I think it is really important that we celebrate the success of our students. I think student like the notion that their coaches, teachers, parents, and other important people in the district hear about their success.

What Mr. Crowhurst’s students are saying:

*“The first time I took the test I failed and I cried. I have never failed anything before and this material has really challenged me. Yesterday, I re-took the test and passed! I was relieved and at the same time it was fun to see my certificate go up on the wall. What Dr. Crowhurst has taught me was that the key is persistence. He also showed me that my ‘failure’ was a way to find out what I know and what I need to fix.”*

~Sydney, PCHS sophomore

*“I got my first certificate in the engineering program. I passed the Autodesk test on the first try and that kind of gave me confidence to try other programs. I finished the Excel test and then took the Word test. I plan to finish all the tests before the end of the year.”*

~Seth, PCHS senior.



### Data Points for January:

The number of schools signed up for membership: 260

The number of registered testing centers: 248

The number of Excel certifications for the month: 65

The number of Excel certification year-to-date: 787

The number of MTA certifications for the month: 3

The number of MTA certifications year-to-date: 99

The number of online courses started: 27,774

The number of online courses completed: 8,005

The top 10 certifying sites:

1. Clark County ATC	6. Highlands High, Fort Thomas Ind.
2. Breckinridge County ATC	7. Paul Laurence Dunbar High, Fayette Co.
3. Dixie Heights High, Kenton County	8. Hart County High
4. Larry Ryle High, Boone County	9. North Bullitt County High
5. Simon Kenton High, Kenton County	10. Bath County High

**Is your school listed here?**

## MOS Master Certifications

School	Name	Teacher/Student
Marion County High	Dylan Tungate	Teacher
Dixie Heights High	Michael Smeltzer	Student
Pulaski County High	Mike Crowhurst	Teacher
Simon Kenton High	Katelyn Taylor	Student
Simon Kenton High	Christopher Welch	Student
Simon Kenton High	Kathryn Johnson	Student
Simon Kenton High	Johnathan Hawkins	Student
Montgomery County ATC	Greyson Cox	Student
Simon Kenton High	James Kreidenweis	Student

### KDE's [KY IA](#) Website is Now Updated!

Check out the Microsoft Resources folder and the Certiport Resources folder - they both have lots of "how to" documents that will help you navigate the Imagine Academy site. There is also a new webinar available: "[Webinar for the New Imagine Academy website](#)" that you may want to watch.